| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Maharashtra (without Western Ghat Population) | 103 (SE + 76-131) |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh (without Indravati population) | 26 (SE + 23-28) |

SE : Standard Error

**Global phasing out of mercury**

482. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) pushing for a global phase out of mercury;

(b) the reasons for Government promoting the use of CFLs, which contain mercury and is a serious health hazard and cause catastrophe to the environment;

(c) whether Government have no functioning recycling scheme, and on account of this, most of the mercury would be released in the air;

(d) whether CFLs not only reduce bills, they also keep the overall power demand low; and

(e) the steps being taken to check the flow, dumping and flooding of Indian market with cheap and substandard quality of Chinese CFLs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Governing Council in its 24th Session held in Nairobi in February, 2007 adopted the decision UNEP/GC/24/3 on "Chemicals" and concluded that further long term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue. The Governing Council decided to establish an *Adhoc* Joint Working Group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives and requested the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session.

(b) As per the Bureau or Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) have potential to save energy and thereby reduce green-house gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Mercury is essential component of CFLs. The amount of mercury in them ranges from 1.3 milligram $\leq$ 5 milligram which does not pose health hazard to humans. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use. Unregulated disposal of CFLs can create environmental impacts.

(c) to (e) As per Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, CFLs use upto 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs, reduce electricity bills of consumers

and overall power. demand. Buy back and safe disposal of fused CFLs is part of a proposed scheme of the BEE entitled "Bachat Lamp Yojana" (BLY) to promote CFLs.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted a Task Force to deal with issues relating to management of mercury in CFLs.

Under Rule 5 of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-Dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, anti-dumping investigations are initiated by Designated Authority after examining the accuracy and adequacy of the evidence provided in the petition and after satisfying that there is sufficient evidence regarding dumping, injury and a casual link between dumped imports and alleged injury to justify the initiation. As regards the anti-dumping investigation relating to imports of CFLs from China PR, an investigation had been initiated and definitive duty imposed which expired in December, 2006. Rule 5 of the Anti-Dumping Rules allows the domestic industry to file a petition for fresh anti-dumping duty, if and when the need arises.

**Protection and purifications of Indian rivers**

483. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Northern India, rivers like Ganga and Yamuna only are polluted fully;

(b) if so, whether Central and Southern Indian rivers, *viz.*, Narmada, Tapti, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and Pennar are also polluted in the country;

(c) if so, the action which is being taken by Union Government for their protection and purification; and

(d) the outcome of such actions, and if not, the reasons therefor and how far it shall have adverse effect on the human beings, animals and birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been implemented, since its inception in 1985, in phases by the Government of India, taking up the pollution abatement works in the river Ganga in the polluted stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the objective of improving the water quality. Besides Ganga, its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda are included under the GAP for pollution abatement works. A total of sewage treatment capacity of 1747 mld. has been created so far for Ganga and its above tributaries. With the pollution abatement works completed so far in both the phases under GAP, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions of the country. As regards Yamuna, the tributary of Ganga, the quality of river water has not shown the desired improvement owing to the large gap between the demand and the availability of the sewage treatment capacity particularly in Delhi, and lack of availability of fresh water for ensuring minimum flow in the river.

The programme was broad based in 1995 and renamed as the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) which covers 160 towns along identified polluted